

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/385,336	ROBERTS ET AL.	
	Examiner Clark F. Dexter	Art Unit 3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the response filed on November 1, 2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,7,8,38,39 and 42-49.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other:

Re item 6, replacement drawings, which include the proposed changes filed on March 2, 2001 that were approved by the Examiner, are required.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew Reibman on January 13, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

Claim 8, line 18, --axially-- has been inserted before "extend".

Claim 39, line 13, "mechanism" has been changed to --mechanisms--;  
line 15, --dull-- has been inserted before "rotary", and --drive-- has been inserted before the second occurrence of "housing";  
line 16, "extended" has been changed to --axially extend--.

Claim 43, line 8, --dull-- has been inserted before "rotary";  
line 9, --axially-- has been inserted before "extend";  
line 10, --generally-- has been inserted before "transverse";  
line 17, "operation" has been changed to --rotation--, and "the first occurrence of "separate" has been changed to --separator--.

Claim 46, line 5, --axially-- has been inserted before "extend", and --generally-- has been inserted before "transverse";  
line 11, "operation" has been changed to --rotation--.

**Remarks**

3. The above changes were agreed upon to further clarify the claimed invention and to correct informalities.

**Reasons for Allowance**

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record, either taken alone or in combination, teaches or fairly suggests the claimed invention. For example regarding claims 43 and 46, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a separator/drive module as claimed, the module comprising a housing; an inlet opening and an outlet opening in the housing; a dull rotary separator member as claimed; a first ticket drive device as claimed; a second ticket drive device as claimed; and a controller as claimed, particularly a controller that is operably coupled to the first and second drive devices to inactivate the drive devices and hold the ticket strip stationary during rotation of the rotary separator member as claimed. As one particular example, both Meschi, pn 5,673,837 (see column 5, lines 27-34) and Traise, pn 5,853,117 (see column 5, lines 18-24) teach drive devices that are driven during the separating operation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark F. Dexter whose telephone number is (571)272-4505. The examiner can be reached Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during normal business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on (571)272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Clark F. Dexter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3724